

HONORING CHRISTOPHER
STEINKAMP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Steinkamp. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. JORGE RAMIREZ

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jorge Ramirez on the occasion of his retirement as president of the Chicago Federation of Labor. Jorge's reputation as an esteemed and extremely effective leader is well-deserved after 8 years as president and 12 years on the board of the CFL. He fought for and succeeded in making life better for hundreds of thousands of workers and their families.

Jorge Ramirez is the son of Mexican immigrants who grew up on the Southwest Side of Chicago near Midway Airport. His father was a meat packer in Chicago's Back of Yards neighborhood during the 1960s, working long hours for limited pay and with limited rights. Eventually his father and fellow workers formed a union, knowing that they were stronger together than they were alone. Jorge continued this tradition and found his own way into the industry, first joining the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 1546 in 1988 where he served as Executive Director.

Since his election as the first Latino President of the Chicago Federation of Labor in 2010, Jorge Ramirez worked closely with stakeholders and cultivated a mutual respect with them, avoiding layoffs, improving health insurance for union workers, and stabilizing Chicago's pension funds. He was critical in ushering in a higher minimum wage for the city starting in 2019, guaranteeing a much better standard of living for so many workers. Jorge's work was also crucial in establishing a new five-year contract between the city of Chicago and the Coalition of Unionized Public Employees. That agreement alone benefited

approximately 20% of the city's employees, including motor truck drivers, plumbers, laborers, and members of the building trades. Most recently, he led the charge for an \$8.5 billion O'Hare Airport expansion plan—an effort that will both modernize one of Chicago's aviation hubs and create over 60,000 jobs.

In addition to his accomplishments with the Chicago Federation of Labor, Jorge is an active community leader, as well as a devoted husband and father. His roles have included positions with the Cook County Health and Hospitals System Board of Directors, Chicago Infrastructure Trust, the Cook County President's Council of Economic Advisors, and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Philanthropically, he has donated his time to the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, and the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Immigrant Affairs. All the while, Jorge and his wife, Catrina, have raised four amazing sons for whom he bakes as a hobby; his specialty being cheesecake.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Jorge Ramirez. His resilience and commitment have helped countless people improve their lives and the lives of their families. I congratulate him on his accomplishments, thank him for his service, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ELSIE EHRENS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elsie Ehrens of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Elsie celebrated her birthday on May 19, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Elsie's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Elsie has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Elsie in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Elsie on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 15, 2018 I missed the following votes due to needing to attend to a close family member in the hospital.

For Roll Call Vote 267, the amendment offered by Congressman THORNBERRY, I would have voted "yes."

For Roll Call Vote 268, final passage of the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING GEORGE MATTHEW
COCKERTON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Matthew Cockerton, a veteran school administrator, who is retiring after serving twenty-seven years in the Kelseyville Unified School District.

Mr. Cockerton was born in Oakland, CA, and has two adult children, Cori and Ryan. He attended California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo and California State University, East Bay where he received his Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and his teaching credential. He also earned a Master's degree in Education and an Administrative Credential from the University of San Francisco and received a Tier II Clear Administrative Credential from National University.

Mr. Cockerton began his career in education as a Physical Education teacher, Athletic Director and Coach in 1985. In 1991, he became the Vice Principal and Athletic Director of Kelseyville High School. Mr. Cockerton was the Principal of Mountain Vista Middle School from 1996 to 1997. He has been Principal of Kelseyville High School since 1997. He is a member of the California Association of Teachers and the Association of California School Administrators. He was also a member of the Coastal Mountain Conference, a local high school sports league, for twenty-seven years and served as president for two years.

Mr. Cockerton has been active in our community. He is a long time coach for Westshore Little League Baseball and has served on their board. He is also a coach for Westshore Youth Football, where he has been the President of the organization.

Mr. Speaker, George Matthew Cockerton has served his community honorably as a school administrator and coach. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING MARDELL URISH'S
93RD BIRTHDAY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mardell Urish, who in her 93 years on earth, has lived an inspiring life as one of the nurses in the Cadet Corps in World War II.

Ms. Urish raised a farm family of six with the help of her beloved husband, Richard. Throughout her life, she has run two assisted living facility businesses, and still runs one today. Her dedication to ensuring that the elderly have a home has undoubtedly enriched

our community and the lives of those she has touched.

It is because of dedicated women such as Ms. Mardell Urish that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Ms. Mardell Urish's life and her service to this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, I experienced delays traveling from Peoria, IL to Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, due to a delayed and then canceled flight, I did not make it to D.C. in time for the 6:30 p.m. vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 269; yea on Roll Call No. 270; and nay on Roll Call No. 271.

HONORING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTCLAIR'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of Montclair, County of Essex, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The story of Montclair as a settled community begins with the Crane family. Azariah Crane, his wife Mary Treat Crane, and their son Nathaniel, built a home in 1694 near the present intersection of Orange Road and Myrtle Avenue. Other pioneers arrived soon after, and the frontier settlement of Cranetown came into being in what is now the southern part of Montclair.

During the Revolutionary War, First Mountain in Montclair provided observation points for following the movements of the British to the east. A strong tradition holds that both George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette were in Cranetown briefly in October of 1780. The boulder at the corner of Claremont Avenue and Valley Road marking the site of "Washington's Headquarters" is one of Montclair's better-known landmarks.

Beginning about 1800, several developments led to the transformation of Cranetown into a small commercial center. One development was the opening of a general store by Israel Crane. Further, in 1806, Crane led a group of businessmen in obtaining a charter from the State for building the Newark-Pompton Turnpike. Constructed over the next several years, the turnpike came through Montclair as Bloomfield Avenue and vastly increased the flow of commerce. Israel Crane broke new ground as well in opening a wool mill on Toney's Brook. Other small industries followed. Also important for the economic development of the area was the completion of the Morris Canal in 1831. In 1812, the Bloomfield ward of Newark became a separate township, which included the future Montclair. The village of Cranetown now became known as

West Bloomfield and a post office was established under that name.

The most decisive event for the emergence of Montclair was the coming of railroads. By 1860 West Bloomfield was becoming a commuter town with its own marked identity and influential residents persuaded the post office to adopt the name Montclair.

The population of the community grew rapidly as New York businessmen and their families began building homes along the mountain-side. The new residents sought to create in Montclair a model "country town" with convenient access to the city. Their vision was shared by a notable artist colony that began forming in the 1870's. A central figure was the landscape painter, George Inness. Able and dedicated community leaders endowed the town with superior schools, an excellent public library, a distinguished art museum and many large and influential churches.

By the opening of the 20th century, a richly diverse population characterized the community. A new influx of New Englanders was joined by African-Americans from the South and by Irish, Germans, Italians, Scandinavians and others newly arrived from Europe. Great mansions went up, but so did many modest homes. Between 1880 and 1930, Montclair's population leaped from 5,147 to 42,017. The period following World War II was marked by tremendous expansion of the metropolitan area. New suburbs popped up in the hinterland along with shopping malls and corporate offices.

Montclair is home to New Jersey's second largest public university, Montclair State University. Building on a distinguished history dating back to 1908, Montclair State University is a leading institution of higher education in New Jersey. Designated a Research Doctoral University by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the University's 11 colleges and schools serve more than 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students with more than 300 doctoral, master's and baccalaureate programs. Situated on a beautiful, 252-acre suburban campus just 12 miles from New York City, Montclair State delivers the instructional and research resources of a large public university in a supportive, sophisticated and diverse academic environment.

Today Montclair is a community of about 39,000 inhabitants. Its heritage in education has been enhanced by its innovative public and private school educational programs and the expanded offerings at Montclair State University. Once again it has become a haven for artists and writers. This is a seasoned community whose many old houses enhance its charm, yet at the dawn of a new century, Montclair remains alive to the spirit of the times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Township of Montclair on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARMINE PALOMBO FOR HIS YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AT SEMCOG

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carmine Palombo of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). His leadership efforts have been critical in serving southeast Michigan for decades.

After receiving his bachelor degree in civil engineering from the University of Detroit Mercy, Mr. Palombo started what would be a lifelong career in southeast Michigan. Since he was young, he has had a deep interest for transportation planning and bettering accessibility throughout the state he loves. He has served in various roles related to transportation planning since joining SEMCOG almost 40 years ago. SEMCOG supports local planning with coordinated intergovernmental resources and serves to improve the quality of transportation systems and encourage economic development. Mr. Palombo has played an integral role in furthering SEMCOG's mission throughout his career.

Mr. Palombo has served as SEMCOG's director of transportation planning for over 20 years and played a key role in many statewide transportation efforts. Throughout southeast Michigan, Mr. Palombo is known for his dedication to his work and keen understanding of the needs of various Michigan communities. He has been at the forefront of Michigan's transit changes over the past two decades and plays a key role in the decision-making processes that occur in communities throughout southeast Michigan. In addition to his work with SEMCOG, he has served as Chairman of the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council and is a former chair of the Michigan Intelligent Transportation Systems board of directors. Mr. Palombo has had a tremendous impact on the future of Michigan's transportation infrastructure, and we look forward to his continued positive impact on our state in the coming years. We know his next chapter will continue to help all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carmine Palombo upon his retirement for his leadership at SEMCOG and in the southeast Michigan community. Mr. Palombo's career and efforts have been critical to transit innovation in our state.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOODVIEW ASSOCIATES

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the Gianotti family and the residents of Woodview Associates as they celebrate the 40th Anniversary of this very special apartment community.

With a vision well before its time, Howard and Elizabeth Gianotti built Woodview to ensure that they elderly and disabled of their